Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, beginning on line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention generally provides peptides, comprising the sequence

$$R_1\text{-}X_1\text{-}X_2\text{-}X_3\text{-}X_4\text{-}R_2 \quad (I)$$

wherein X1 is selected from the group consisting of N, Q, D and S; X2 is selected from the group consisting of V, I and L; X3 is selected from the group consisting of R and K; and X4 is selected from the group consisting of V, I, L and F; ~~the X_1-X_2-X_3-X_4 sequence is selected from the group consisting of~~

~~N-V-R-V, N-V-R-I, N-V-R-L, N-V-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 55-57 & 51),~~

~~N-V-K-V, N-V-K-I, N-V-K-L, N-V-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 58-61),~~

~~N-I-R-V, N-I-R-I, N-I-R-L, N-I-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 62-65),~~

~~N-I-K-V, N-I-K-I, N-I-K-L, N-I-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 66-69),~~

~~N-L-R-V, N-L-R-I, N-L-R-L, N-L-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 70-73),~~

~~N-L-K-V, N-L-K-I, N-L-K-L, N-L-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 74-77),~~

~~Q-V-R-V, Q-V-R-I, Q-V-R-L, Q-V-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 78-80 & 53),~~

~~Q-V-K-V, Q-V-K-I, Q-V-K-L, Q-V-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 81-83),~~

~~Q-I-R-V, Q-I-R-I, Q-I-R-L, Q-I-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 84-87),~~

~~Q-I-K-V, Q-I-K-I, Q-I-K-L, Q-I-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 88-91),~~

~~Q-L-R-V, Q-L-R-I, Q-L-R-L, Q-L-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 92-95),~~

~~Q-L-K-V, Q-L-K-I, Q-L-K-L, Q-L-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 96-99),~~

~~D-V-R-V, D-V-R-I, D-V-R-L, D-V-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 100-102 & 54),~~

~~D-V-K-V, D-V-K-I, D-V-K-L, D-V-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 103-106),~~

~~D-I-R-V, D-I-R-I, D-I-R-L, D-I-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 107-110),~~

~~D-I-K-V, D-I-K-I, D-I-K-L, D-I-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 111-114),~~

~~D-L-R-V, D-L-R-I, D-L-R-L, D-L-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 115-118),~~

~~D-L-K-V, D-L-K-I, D-L-K-L, D-L-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 119-122),~~

~~S-V-R-V, S-V-R-I, S-V-R-L, S-V-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 123-125 & 52),~~

~~S-V-K-V, S-V-K-I, S-V-K-L, S-V-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 126-129),~~

~~S-I-R-V, S-I-R-I, S-I-R-L, S-I-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 130-133),~~

~~S-I-K-V, S-I-K-I, S-I-K-L, S-I-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 134-137),~~

~~S-L-R-V, S-L-R-I, S-L-R-L, S-L-R-F (SEQ ID NOS: 138-141),~~

~~S-L-K-V, S-L-K-I, S-L-K-L, S-L-K-F (SEQ ID NOS: 142-145);~~

R1 is a hydrogen or a peptide of 1 to 6 amino acids, an acyl or an aryl group; and R2 is a peptide of 1 to 3 amino acids, a hydroxide or an amide. In one embodiment of the invention, peptides having the sequence FQGVLQNVRFVF (SEQ ID NO:6) or FRGCVRNLRLSR (SEQ ID NO:12) are specifically excluded. In one embodiment, the peptides contain from 4 to 12 amino acids, i.e., has a length of 4 to 12 amino acid residues. In one embodiment, the peptides comprise additional residues, e.g., typically up to a length of 15, 20, 25, or 40 residues that includes the core sequence (I).